

HOTEL DEADBEATS.

SHARP RASCALS WHO ARE TOO MUCH FOR THE SHREWDEST CLERKS.

Some of the Tricks by Which They Obtain Accommodations Without Paying and Also Borrow Money—Empty Trunks and Bogus Packages.

Despite every precaution taken by shrewd hotel clerks a large number of persons are constantly engaged in securing board and lodging by fraud.

It is usually supposed that when a guest arrives at a hotel without baggage he cannot secure accommodations unless he pays in advance, but it is not so. The "deadbeat" not only will live in the hotel free for a week, but in many cases will secure a loan from the unsuspecting gentleman behind the desk.

The "deadbeat" constantly evolves new tricks to "do up" the hotel man, and it was not many days ago that a well known hotel was defrauded in a very skillful manner of a week's board and some of the cash in the till. The "deadbeat" walked into the hotel lobby and in a confident manner placed his name on the register as having from Chicago. He was neatly dressed and carried a small grip. He informed the clerk that he was a traveling man on his first trip to the coast.

Traveling men are good customers, so the new arrival was assigned to a good room. He handed two baggage checks to the clerk and requested that his trunk be sent for from the depot. In an hour or two he was inquired why his baggage had not been sent up to his room. The porter was sent for and explained that the transfer company had not been able to find it. Inquiries were made by telephone, but the railroad people could give no information of the missing baggage.

"Well, I am in a nice fix," said the new guest to the hotel clerk, "for all my clothes are in my trunk, and I suppose the things have gone astray."

The clerk was very sympathetic, for a traveling man without his clothes is indeed to be pitied. The fellow managed to borrow \$30 to buy some shirts, collars, ties, etc., and went out of the hotel wearing a new suit. He then returned to his room, and the hotel clerk, who had been looking for the trunk, found it at the depot there as to where the trunk bearing certain numbered checks had been stolen at some time in Chicago or elsewhere.

Another favorite trick to defraud a hotel is done by means of a confederate. One man will go to a first class house and secure a good room. About the second day he will be in the office, and while there the hotel clerk will receive a telephone message purporting to come from a well known store asking if Mr. So-and-so desires the goods he ordered sent up to the hotel. The clerk will naturally ask the guest the question, and he will reply that he desires the goods sent up. When the package arrives, there is always \$10 to \$25 to be paid. The hotel man is requested by the guest to "settle the amount and charge it up in my bill." It does not pay to offend a guest whose appearance indicates wealth, so the money is handed out in payment. The guest then disappears, and his trunk is found to be a cheap one and generally full of paper, while the package which has been paid for by the hotel people is also worthless.

Bogus telegrams and letterheads are frequently used by "deadbeats" in order to secure a little ready cash until "my money arrives," and very often the scheme works all right, for a hotel clerk is always afraid of offending a guest in these matters, for should he mistrust an honest man he will injure the hotel's reputation. While most hotels make it a rule not to cash drafts or checks or loan money, still very often the "deadbeat" will make them break it. A scheme which has recently been worked all over the country was for the "deadbeat" to send by express a package to a hotel in another city. It would be heavily sealed and marked, "Value \$200," and the hotel man, thinking that it contained jewelry intended for a guest soon to arrive, would put it in the safe. In a few days the "deadbeat" would turn up at the hotel, register and inquire if a package had arrived for him. He would be told that it was in the safe, and he would tell them it contained watches and valuables. The same night a loan of \$20 would be asked for, and the hotel man, remembering the valuable package in the safe, would in nine cases out of ten hand out the coin. The guest would disappear, and when the package was opened it was found to be of no value.

As all accounts in hotels are rendered weekly it is impossible for dishonest persons to obtain free living for longer than a week, for they will be requested to pay or vacate. A man and his wife, by placing a supposed jewel case in a hotel safe, managed, some time ago, to secure over six weeks' living in a well known hotel in this city. The landlord, who had seen the woman wearing a quantity of jewels, naturally supposed they were in the jewel case in his safe. When the guests disappeared and the package was opened, it was found to be a trunk strap, carefully coiled up and tied with string.—San Francisco Chronicle.

An Old Fire Horse's Good Memory.

Eleven years ago a horse was purchased for the fire engine Portland No. 2, on Munjoy Hill. The horse was called Old Tom, and it helped draw the engine for six years and was then disposed of. It has been drawing an ash cart of late years, and the other day went by the engine house, where it was put in the hands of the fireman. The horse, who knew the horse well, since they came to that engine in the same year and were there together for six years, fell into conversation with the driver and told him that he hadn't a doubt that if the old horse was put in his old stall and the gong was sounded he would rush for his place in front of the engine just as he used to do. The driver doubted this and they agreed to try it. The old horse, now 15 years old, was put in his old stall, where he hadn't been for five years. At the first sound of the gong he started for his old place under the harness in front of the engine. He tried to go quickly, but made but a sorry exhibition of nimbleness compared with his former habit.—Portland Press.

For Stilling Troubled Waters.

Oil is no longer to be poured on troubled water. It is to be fired like a shell from a gun, as a wave approaches a bomb filled with oil is to be precipitated in its direction. The bladder will be perforated with small holes so the oil will run out slowly and continue its work for a greater length of time than would otherwise be the case.

THE RATTLESNAKE.

COMMON ERRORS REGARDING ITS FIGHTING ABILITIES.

Doesn't Have to Coil Before Striking and Kills by a Bite—Quickly Replaces Lost Fangs—He Will Not Go Out of His Way to Attack Anything.

"Nobody was ever bitten by a rattlesnake, and nobody ever will be," said a man who has studied them. "And the reason is the best that could possibly be. A rattlesnake can't bite. It isn't likely that any creature that lives and is provided with teeth and jaws has less power of biting. The snake's jaws are not hinged. They are attached to each other by an elastic cartilage. Thus the snake has no leverage whatever in closing one jaw against the other, and if it attempted to inflict injury by biting it couldn't do much as pierce the skin. The fangs of a rattlesnake are driven into the flesh by a stroke, not a bite, as is well shown by the fact that punctures are made only by the arrangement of the upper jaw. The lower jaw does nothing to do with the teeth. A man striking a boat hook into a log is an exact representation of the manner in which the rattlesnake bites. So whenever any one tells you about some one else being bitten by a rattlesnake bet him it isn't so. You'll win. It is an impossibility for a rattlesnake to bite."

"But although the rattlesnake can't bite, if you're fooling around in a country where he is spending the summer, you want to keep your eye peeled. And there is one particular thing you don't want to forget. It is a common and widespread fallacy that a rattlesnake is entirely harmless so long as he is uncoiled. I believed that once and found out by a startling personal experience that it wasn't so. It is true that when a rattlesnake is stretched at full length, with the muscles extended to the utmost, he could not strike an inch forward, but from that position he can strike backward his full length and with lightninglike velocity. One day I dropped a big stone on the head of a big rattlesnake that lay in this position, crushing the head. The stone lying partly on the head. After gazing for some time at the quivering reptile so suddenly taken from life, I stooped down to remove his rattles. I had no sooner touched his tail than his mutilated head flew back, and almost grazing my cheek struck the sleeve of my coat just below the shoulder, where both fangs were buried, pulling out of the jaw and remaining in the sleeve as the snake fell back to the ground. They had not missed my cheek by more than a hair's breadth. With precaution I have made that test of a rattlesnake's capacity of striking in that way many times since then, and the snake always struck. The instinct is so strong in this reptile that I have known a rattlesnake two hours after its head was severed from its body to strike back fiercely with its bleeding stump the instant its tail was touched."

"But the typical position of the rattlesnake when intent on deadly assault is the coil. This is not always symmetrical spiral, but the body is massed in more or less regular folds, the muscles are contracted, and the reptile is literally an animate set spring. From this position the rattlesnake can spring from one-half to two-thirds of his length. Before the stroke the mouth is opened wide, the fangs falling down from their sockets in the upper jaw and standing firmly in their position. The head is thrust forward, the half coils below it being straightened out to lengthen the neck and to give power to the strike. There is no preliminary motion. The stab is made with abrupt swiftness that defies escape of the victim. There is but one strike. The snake passes back into its coil again with the same swiftness that it threw itself out. As the fangs enter the flesh the venom is injected. If the thing struck at is beyond the rattlesnake's reach, the snake has the power of squirting its venom in jets, which it can do to a distance of four feet or more."

"Sometimes a rattlesnake loses its fangs in the flesh of its victim, and this does not cause only temporary damage to its deadly armory. There are plenty of incipient fangs lying in the jaw, only waiting for a chance like that to come forward and be in line for business. They grow very fast, and in the course of two or three days a rattlesnake that has lost its fangs is refitted with a brand new pair. This is a good thing to remember, for it is the popular belief that a rattlesnake is refitted with extracting its venom fangs. The only way to render one of these reptiles harmless, besides killing it, is to apply red hot iron to the cavity left by the fangs. This will destroy all the vitality of these dangerous parts, and new fangs will not come in."

"The rattlesnake never pursues his prey; he waits. He will not go out of his way to attack anything. He will invariably keep on his course if not cornered or teased. You may step within four inches of a rattlesnake and will not be disturbed by it if you keep right on your way. If you stop, the snake at once will take it for a challenge and hit you only too quick. It is said, as if by authority, that the rattlesnake never sounds his rattle until he has coiled. If that is so, rattlesnakes that I have seen must have been freaks, for they have rattled when lying at full length and even when moving, as well as in their coils. The rattler, when traveling, will cross lakes and streams, and he swims with his head and his rattles raised well above the water. The force with which a rattlesnake can strike is such that I once tossed one into striking at a piece of boiling water in a quarter of an inch thick, and he sent his fangs clear through it."—New York Sun.

Heavy Freight.
Landlord (apologetically)—This elevator seems to run a little slow just now.

Guest—Oh, that's all right. There's a clerk on board with one of the guest's bills.—Chicago Record.

A Negro Lightning Calculator.

Octavius Flannaghan is a dull eyed, ignorant negro of 35 years of age who has wonderful aptness for figures. Three years ago Flannaghan could not calculate what two pounds of cotton would bring if cotton was 5 cents a pound. Three years ago, however, while Flannaghan was steadily chopping corn, a sudden thought came to him. He turned to the negro nearest to him and yelled out, "A bale or cotton dat weighs 500 pound w'en cotton is gwine at 7 3-16 cents, will fetch \$35.93 1/2." Since then Flannaghan has proved a prodigy. He was given the following sum yesterday: If one-third of 6 is 3, what is one-fourth of 20? Flannaghan's answer was 7 1/2. Flannaghan says that God gave him his power. The negro is here with Clifton Newton of Danopolis, Ala., who says of Flannaghan: "The negro in the section of Alabama where he came from believe that he is afflicted with a devil, and will have nothing to do with him. He cannot tell one figure from another on paper." Flannaghan will be in Atlanta during the exposition.—Atlanta Constitution.

—Established 1884.—

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Fruit and Produce Commission Merchants,

Southern Fruits and Vegetables a specialty.
Oysters and Clams in season.

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Wholesale Commission Merchants,

For the sale of Fruits, Berries, Peas, Sweet and Irish Potatoes, Poultry, &c.

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No soliciting agent employed. All dealings direct with the shipper. Prompt returns.

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Agent for Pungoteague Farmers Alliance.

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No drummers employed.

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Shipping Letter T.

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All consignments receive our own

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Shipping Letter C

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pins, Wild Fowl, Eggs, Poul-
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Shipping Letter "W."

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Salesman 7 years for W. S. Byrd

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—Dealer in—

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Shipping Letters A A

W. H. Bonnewell, Agent,

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H. F. Kilmon, Agent,

Rue's Wharf.

J. E. Whittington N. J. Ward

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Sweet and Irish Potatoes specialties.

References—Irving Nat. Bank, New

York; R. G. Dunn & Co., and the

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